

## Message Text

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14

ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6764

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (EAGLETON, THOMAS F.)

SUBJECT: SENATOR EAGLETON'S CONVERSATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 6494 (DTG 230429Z AUG 75)

(B) SEOUL 6252 (DTG 150358Z AUG 75)

SUMMARY: SENATOR EAGLETON ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT PARK AND PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG PIL AUGUST 29. DURING CONVERSATIONS ROK LEADERS EXPLAINED SELF-RELIANCE FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AND JUSTIFICATION FOR INTERNAL RESTRAINTS. PRESIDENT PARK REAFFIRMED ASSURANCES ON NON-PROLIFERATION, CHARACTERIZING DEVELOPMENT NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AS ECONOMICALLY DISASTEROUS. SENATOR EAGLETON CONFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR CLOSE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR EAGLETON MET ON AUGUST 29 WITH PRESIDENT PARK FOR OVER ONE HOUR AND HAD BRIEFER CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER KIM. BOTH CONVERSATIONS COVERED WELL-PLOUGHED GROUND WITH KOREAN LEADERS LARGELY REITERATING POINTS MADE TO PREVIOUS CODELS. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. SENATOR EAGLETON MADE CLEAR TO PRESIDENT PARK THAT SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY IN CONGRESS WANT AND NEED CLOSER SECURITY RELATIONS WITH BOTH JAPAN AND KOREA, VIEWING THESE RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR OWN NATIONAL INTEREST. HE POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING THE

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COLLAPSE OF VIETNAM, HE, AND SENATORS CRANSTON AND MUNDALE, HAD

SPOKEN TO THE SENATE IN THIS VEIN TO CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATE THAT THEIR DOVISH VIEWS ON VIETNAM DID NOT APPLY TO KOREA. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THAT IT WAS VERY NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN U.S. FORCES IN KOREA. PARK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS OF THESE VIEWS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONED THAT HIS FRANK AND STRAIGHTFORWARD TALKS THIS WEEK WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER REAFFIRMING U.S. POLICY IN KOREA CLEARLY ENCOURAGED HIMSELF AND ALL KOREANS.

3. SENATOR EAGLETON REFERRED TO THE STRONG VIEWS IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN CONGRESS, ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND CONGRATULATED ROKG ON RATIFICATION OF NPT. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT ROK MUST DEPEND UPON U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA AND GAVE FULL ASSURANCES OF ROK INTENTION TO ADHERE TO NON-PROLIFERATION. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW A DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY BY ROK WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY DISASTROUS.

4. PRESIDENT PARK DESCRIBED BRIEFLY PLANS FOR FIVE YEAR FORCE IMPROVEMENT AND KOREA'S INTENTION TO DEFEND ITSELF THROUGH ITS OWN MEANS AGAINST NORTH KOREA. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA BY TWO LARGE COMMUNIST POWERS, EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS NECESSARY FOR U.S. TO CONTAIN USSR AND PRC. THEREFORE, EVEN AFTER COMPLETION OF FIVE YEAR PLAN PERMITTING SOUTH KOREA TO TAKE CARE OF THE NORTH ALONE, U.S. FORCES MUST STAY IN KOREA FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD WITH A SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF FORCES. THESE FORCES ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY BALANCE OF POWER IN NORTHEAST ASIA VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNIST SUPER POWERS.

5. THE PRESIDENT THEN DESCRIBED THE ROKG VIEWS ON UNIFICATION AND EFFORTS TO ENGAGE NORTH KOREA IN A DIALOGUE. REALISTICALLY, UNIFICATION IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THE PRESENT TIME GIVEN DIFFERING IDEOLOGIES AND POLITICS AND COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY BY WAR. SOUTH KOREAN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A DIALOGUE HAVE MET WITH DISAPPOINTING REACTION FROM NORTH WHICH CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR UNIFICATION ON ITS TERMS. THE SOUTH/NORTH DIALOGUE IS NOW VIRTUALLY SUSPENDED, BUT ROKG WILL NOT GIVE UP ITS EFFORTS AND WILL CONTINUE PATIENTLY TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE.

6. SENATOR EAGLETON RAISED WITH BOTH PRESIDENT PARK AND PRIME

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MINISTER KIM HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, LABELLING IT THE ONLY BLACK CLOUD IN CONGRESS. THE PRESIDENT REITERATED LINE HE HAD TAKEN WITH PREVIOUS CODELS ON THIS SUBJECT NOTING THAT ALMOST EVERY CONGRESSMAN HE HAD MET HAD RAISED THE SAME QUESTION. HE STRESSED THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES TAKEN IN LIGHT OF SERIOUS NORTH KOREAN THREAT TO ROK SECURITY AND ARE ACCEPTED BY MANY KOREANS AS UNAVOIDABLE IN VIEW OF THESE REALITIES. HE DREW AN ANALOGY TO EMERGENCY MEASURES TAKEN DURING U.S. CIVIL WAR

AND COMMITTED HIMSELF TO GREATER LIBERALIZATION ONCE NORTH KOREAN THREAT DECREASED. HE POINTED OUT THAT U.S. HAD 100 PERCENT FREEDOM, SOUTH KOREA WOULD HAVE 70-80 PERCENT BUT NORTH KOREA NONE. THE RESTRAINTS IN SOUTH KOREA ARE NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE SOUTH FROM BEING ENGULFED BY THE NORTH AND ENJOYING NO FREEDOM. THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK SIMILAR LINE STRESSING THAT ROK HOPE IS FOR A FULL DEMOCRACY AND RESTRAINTS NOW IMPOSED IN SOUTH ARE MINIMAL NECESSARY GIVEN THREAT FROM THE NORTH.

7. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER, SENATOR EAGLETON ASKED WHETHER MILITARY BUILD-UP WOULD INVOLVE RISKS TO THE KOREAN ECONOMY. THE PRIME MINISTER AGREED THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE DELAYED AND BELT TIGHTENING NECESSARY. BUT MORE URGENT TASK FACING ROKG IS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE BUILD-UP. HE WENT ON TO REITERATE ROKG DESIRE TO MINIMIZE ITS DEPENDENCE ON U.S.  
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